

# **GEORGIA RULE OF LAW PROJECT**

## **Quarterly Report**

January – March 2003

USAID/Caucasus/Tbilisi

Contract # 114-C-00-01-00136-00

Strategic Objective 2.2

Presented by:

The IRIS Center at the University of Maryland

University Research Corporation International



**Quarterly Report  
January - March 2003  
Georgia Rule of Law  
USAID Contract No. 114-C-00-01-00136-00**

In addition to ongoing activities, during this reporting period, IRIS was actively involved in discussing USAID's future strategy. IRIS senior staff members participated in several meetings on the issue.

GYLA began implementation of its second year grant on January 16, 2003.

***Task 1: Raising Public Awareness, Raising Public Confidence***

New small-grants

IRIS signed a contract with the Horizonti Foundation to conduct three grant competitions to be conducted during the Spring. Horizonti drafted the RFAs, which were subsequently reviewed by the Mission. IRIS made changes based on comments provided and returned the RFAs to the Mission for final review.

Rule of law segments in national TV programs

IRIS initiated cooperation with the newly opened TV Channel IMEDI. IRIS staff members participated in four programs of the weekly talk show "Your Choice." Topics of the talk shows were: Lustration, police and witness protection, commercial and private secrets, and crime and citizens' responsibility.

GYLA Activities

During the reporting period, GYLA's Tbilisi, Rustavi, Gori, Kutaisi, Ozurgeti and Telavi offices continued active participation in both Task 1 and 2 of the Work Plan. Activities directed towards raising public awareness remained intensive in response to society's pressing needs and as a result of expanding their regional scope. GYLA's above-mentioned offices effectively directed organization of town hall meetings, as well as visits of the mobile legal clinics in various parts of the country with an emphasis on the particularities of the regions and specific needs of the targeted population. There were a total of 28 town hall meetings, reaching 375 people directly. The mobile legal clinic visited 94 different localities and met with over 1,675 people. In parallel to providing information on legal issues of particular interest to the public, GYLA's central and regional offices continued to inform communities about the availability of GYLA's legal services. During the reporting period preparatory activities were conducted for advertising free legal aid activities, both in Tbilisi and in the regions. The advertisements were broadcast in March on the TV channel "Rustavi 2." Local TV stations will start broadcasting advertisements in April.

The expansion of GYLA's regional activities included preparatory work for the establishment of the Dusheti regional office. The Tbilisi office actively participated in this process, however, the active involvement and motivation of the local lawyers significantly facilitated preparatory work gives a strong indication of the effectiveness of this office in its future activities. Preparatory work included the

organization of several events in Dusheti, such as a town hall meeting with representatives of the local city council and field visits to various villages of the region, all aimed at increasing the acceptance of the local community upon the official opening of the office the end of April.

Activities of the newly established regional office in Ozurgeti are very encouraging. During the reporting period Ozurgeti regional office organized several round tables, and visits of the mobile legal aid clinic.

During this quarter GYLA issued two publications, compilation of articles on “Human Rights Protection under National and International Law” and comparative research on various legal aid systems, entitled “How to make law accessible for everybody.”

GYLA prepared 13 different articles and advice columns (frequently asked questions) for Georgian newspapers during the quarter. Topics remained responsive to legal issues of high importance and interest to the public.

The titles of newspaper articles are as follows:

#### GYLA Tbilisi Office

1. Article “Arbitrary detention is prohibited, you have the right to a lawyer” Rezonansi - February 6, 2003 # 032(2875)
2. Article “Participation of the society in the decision-making process of an Administrative Body” - Rezonansi - February 10, 2003 #046 (2289)
3. Article “How should we participate in state purchases?” - Rezonansi - February 10, 2003 #046 (2289)
4. Article “Compensation of damages inflicted by unlawful acts of Law Enforcement Bodies” - Rezonansi, March - 6, 2003 #060 (2903)
5. Article “Problems with execution of court orders and decisions” - Rezonansi March - 6, 2003 #060 (2903)
6. Article “How shall we apply to the constitutional court?” - Rezonansi - March 27, 2003 #084(2924)

#### GYLA Kutaisi Office

7. Article “President against trafficking” Newspaper “Akhali Gazeti” #5 March 4-11.
8. Article “Problems related with the recognition of a person as a suspect” Newspaper “Anarekli” #3, 6-19 March
9. Answers to the questions Newspaper P.S #9 March 3-9
10. Answers to the questions Newspaper “Anarekli ” #4 March 21-April 2
11. Answers to the questions newspaper “Erisioni” #2 March- April

#### GYLA Gori Office

12. Article “Transparency of public agencies” Newspaper “Trialeti” #30

#### GYLA Telavi Office

13. Article “Let’s learn laws and protect human rights” Telavis Moambe” - #3-5, (8613-8615) 2003 6 February-12 March

## Statistical Summary

<b>GYLA Publications</b>	<b>Number of Publications</b>	<b>Copies Distributed</b>
Newspaper	13	NA
Compilation of Articles- Defense of human rights in national and International Law	1000	1000
Comparative research How to make law accessible for everybody	300	0

<b>GYLA</b>	<b>Number of Meetings</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Town Hall	28	375
Workshops and Roundtables	10	164
Mobile Legal Clinic Visits	94	1674

## Liberty Activities

During the reporting period, Liberty Institute continued organizing regular Press Club Sessions, conducting three press-club sessions. They covered issues such as freedom of assembly, the right to privacy, as well as electronic media and the legal field. Press club sessions were quite successful and responsive to the highly problematic issues in the field of human rights protection. Attendance of media representatives remained consistent with the previous months and even expanded. The quality of subsequent coverage of press club sessions was very high, with some of the distributed materials published as attachments to newspapers. The press club session on the right to privacy is a good example. The main purpose of this session was to clarify whether it is lawful to conduct undercover wiretaps and whether the court should admit these types of material as valid evidence. The session provoked wide discussion, which continued on Rustavi 2, in the program - "Gamis Kurieri," as well as in "Court Chronicles" the daily attachment to the newspaper "Kviris Palitra." Direct coverage of the press-club session was provided by the TV program "60 Minutes"; newspapers - "Akhali Versia," "24 Hours," and radio channels - "Liberty" and State Radio. The press club session also facilitated international response by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), International Press Institute (IPI) and Article XIX. These organizations wrote a letter to President Shevardnadze condemning the Supreme Court's attitude on the issue specifically related to the program "60 Minutes." Public pressure made the Chairman of the Supreme Court change his position and dismiss the judges implicated as corrupt by "60 Minutes."

Two round table discussions were held in the regions. They covered issues including the violation of the right to defense within 12 hours after arrest by police officials and the rights of students. Both round tables were very interactive, providing a forum for active discussions.

Liberty published three monthly newsletters (total 6000 copies). Newsletters were widely distributed in Tbilisi and the regions.

Regional offices remained active in operational activities. Regional staff continued to work with people through newsletter delivery, visiting various interest groups and inviting interested people to the Round Table Discussion.

## Statistical Summary

<b>Liberty</b>	<b># of Publications</b>	<b>Copies Published</b>	<b>Copies Distributed</b>
Newsletters	3	6000	6000

<b>Liberty</b>	<b>Number of meetings</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Press Club sessions	3	85
Regional Roundtables	2	49
Tbilisi Roundtable	0	0

### Internews Activities

Internews Georgia activities under the ROL project developed in two directions, the production of documentary programs and public service announcements.

During the reporting period, Internews produced two, out of ten, TV documentaries. Pursuant to Internews and Rustavi-2's agreement, documentaries produced under the Rule of Law project will be broadcast on the last Monday of every month at 18:40.

The first film on torture and the brutal treatment of detainees at police stations, was titled "Trace" and aired on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

The second film was dedicated to religious intolerance in Georgia. The film was titled "Verge" and aired on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This documentary, which describes the state of religious tolerance and freedom in Georgia, proved to very successful. It included interviews with representatives of most religious groups present in Georgia and mainly focused on religious violence. The documentary upset Father Basili, a radical and aggressive priest who was excommunicated from the Orthodox Church, but still maintains his parish and supporters. After the documentary was shown on TV, Father Basili called a press conference, to condemn the documentary. The documentary was viewed very positively by civil society and various international organizations asked for copies to show at their offices. Currently the documentary is being translated into English.

Internews continued to work on the second phase of PSA production. Topics previously identified are:

- Illegal search of young people, especially in the street.
- Right to legal council, especially for witnesses.
- Right to decline making statements to the Police
- Freedom of information (public administrative process.)

Jerry Hunnicutt, the PSA consultant, visited Georgia and worked closely with Internews in PSA production.

### Outdoor poster campaign

IRIS continued to work with Jerry Hunnicutt during his field visit on the finalization of the scope of work and schedule for Magi Style on the design, printing and placement of outdoor posters. The contract with Magi Style was signed in mid-February. Jerry Hunnicutt evaluated poster sketches designed by Magi and provided guidance on the photographic phase of the project.

During the reporting period, Magi Style modified preliminary designs of four outdoor posters according to IRIS recommendations. Magi Style also adapted the posters to the size of outdoor back-lit panels. The design of the ethnic minority-related poster is still being discussed and the remaining two posters are pending props.

### ***List of Deliverables***

Deliverables in electronic format:

1. Agenda and list of participants of LIBERTY Round Table Discussion on Violations of the right to defense during 12 hours after arrest by police officials (January 09)
2. Agenda and list of participants of LIBERTY Round Table Discussion on Human Rights and Rights of Students (March 24)
3. Agenda and List of Participants of LIBERTY Press Club Session on Freedom of Assembly and Manifestation (January 22)
4. Agenda and List of Participants of LIBERTY Press Club Session on the Right to Privacy (February 21)
5. Agenda and List of Participants of LIBERTY Press Club Session on Electronic Media and Legal Field (March 31)
6. Agenda of GYLA workshop on Freedom of information, Georgian Legislation on the Press and other sources of Mass Media, Kutaisi, January 20-21, 2003;
7. Agenda of GYLA Workshop on “Criminal Procedure”, Kutaisi, 27-29 January 2003;
8. Agenda of GYLA Workshop for FOIA officers on transparency of public agencies, Bakuriani, 14-16 February 2003;
9. Agenda of GYLA workshop for representatives of Mass Media on Freedom of Speech, Kutaisi, March 19-21, 2003;

Deliverables in Hard Copies:

1. Compilation of Articles- “Defense of Human Rights in National and International Law” (GYLA).
2. Comparative research on Legal Aid Systems of the World – “How to make law accessible for everybody” (GYLA).
3. “Transparency of public agencies” – Distribution material for the workshop held in Bakuriani on 14-16<sup>th</sup> February 2003 for FOI officers (GYLA).
4. LIBERTY Newsletter # 1 (13)
5. LIBERTY Newsletter # 2 (14)
6. LIBERTY Newsletter # 3 (15)
7. Internews documentary #1 “Trace”
8. Internews documentary #2 “Verge”

### **Task 2: Support for Legal Aid Organizations**

#### Legal aid research

During this quarter, IRIS continued work on legal aid research. Meetings were conducted with a diverse group of representatives from the legal profession including leading practicing attorneys, former prosecutors, and attorneys working in our legal aid centers. The main purpose of these meetings was to form a better understanding of the existing situation. After preparing substantial materials, the first round table to initiate discussion on this issue among relevant actors in the field was planned for the end of March.

In February, it appeared that one of our main partner organizations, GYLA had similar plans and had conducted preparation work as well. As a result of this situation, we were left with three basic options: 1) continue implementation of our action plan in parallel to GYLA activities, creating a confusing environment for the target audience and leading to a duplication of efforts with our partner organization; 2) change our contract with GYLA to integrate legal aid research activities into GYLA's IRIS funded project; 3) remove this activity from our work plan and not be actively involved in the process. Based on GYLA's unwillingness to refrain from duplicative work, we decided to opt for the third alternative and allow GYLA to continue independently in activities on this topic. This avoids the creation of an unhealthy competitive environment with our partner organization and the inevitable duplication of activities. As a result, we suspended our activities and are waiting for final approval of our decision from USAID. In the meantime, we continue to be updated on further developments and if necessary will be ready for more active involvement in this process.

### GYLA activities

GYLA continued providing legal aid through consultations and court representations. This reporting period proved that the selection criteria developed under the new grant agreement are effective by clearly defining the scope of operation for GYLA's legal aid centers. During this quarter, GYLA undertook 13 new cases, which are classified below in the statistical summary. There were favorable decisions in 16 cases, including some cases initiated in previous quarters.

During the reporting period there were a number of successful administrative law cases. FOI issues were represented by several cases including *GYLA v. The Institute of Foreign Languages*. In 2002, GYLA applied to the Institute of Foreign Languages and requested public information concerning the income and expenditures of the institute. The institute refused to disclose the requested information in the established period of time. GYLA filed a claim in Vake-Saburtalo district court. On December 5, 2002 the court upheld the claim and the Institute of Foreign Languages was obliged to disclose the requested information.

An interesting administrative law case in the village Gumbati involved some of the village residents, who had resettled in Gumbati from Adjara. They encountered serious problems in receiving ID cards in a timely manner. This problem could not be solved in the local Department of Passport and Citizens registration, which failed or was not inclined to obtain the necessary documentation. GYLA's Rustavi regional office applied to the national bureau of passport-visa and citizen's registration department. They managed to gather all the necessary documentation and delivered it to the local passport-visa and citizen's registration department of Tsalka region. As a result of this process, the issuance of ID cards to the population was initiated.

During the reporting period there were cases of unconditional releases from the courtroom of persons accused of committing criminal offences under unfounded charges in violation of their human rights and liberties. The case of Martiashvili Levan is a good example of the arbitrary and incompetent nature of law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting criminal offences. On March 24 2003, the deputy public defender of Georgia asked GYLA's legal aid center to defend members of the Veterans' Union who were suspected in the seizure of a military unit on March 23, 2003. After reviewing case materials, GYLA decided to render assistance to the suspect, Levan Martiashvili. He is a lieutenant, still in active military service. Lieutenant Martiashvili, without being involved in the seizure in any way, came to the military unit on March 23 attempting to conduct negotiations with those involved in the seizure and persuade them to desist in their activities. He had a personal interest in doing so, since his brother was involved in the operation. He left the unit without succeeding in persuading them to desist and surrender to law enforcement agencies. On March 25, Levan Martiashvili was accused under Article 22 part II



clause a, Article 237 paragraph III, clause a, Paragraph IV clause b. On March 26, 2003, before the Mtatsminda-Krtsanisi district court, GYLA's defense lawyers were successful in rebutting the prosecution's case. The court declared the prosecution's arguments and evidence were unfounded and inadmissible. Levan Martiashvili was released from the courtroom unconditionally.

The case of Gaga Gegidze is representative of the widespread pattern of fabricated cases substantiated by false witness testimonies. On December 2, 2001, the police detained Gaga Gegiadze (a minor) and a criminal case was initiated against him under Article 170 of the criminal code. According to prosecution materials, on December 2, 2001, Gaga, together with some "Nika," attacked a tax driver and extorted from him 6 Lari. The police detained Gaga at the scene of the crime, but "Nika" managed to escape. The case materials demonstrated serious violations of the Georgian Code of Criminal Procedure. It became evident that the prosecution's main evidence consisted of false testimonies of witnesses of the search and interrogation. There was a sufficient basis to suspect that the witnesses were not even present at any of the above-mentioned investigative activities. Among other factors, this suspicion was supported by the fact that an identical case was initiated against Valeri Mgebrishvili on November 21, 2002. Apart from the substantive similarities of the elements and pattern of these alleged crimes, concerns were raised by the fact that the same policemen and even the same witnesses were involved in Gegidze's case. The judge of the Vake –Saburtalo district court, G. Gugunashvili, satisfied GYLA's motion and declared the testimony, search and material evidence of the prosecution false and inadmissible. The Court declared Gaga Gegidze "not guilty."

In this quarter, three constitutional cases were initiated. One case, *Chiba Janelidze v. The Parliament of Georgia*, was declared inadmissible. The Court admitted two others cases, *Anzor Tevzaia v. the Parliament of Georgia* and *Sergo Mushliani v. the Parliament of Georgia*. Both cases are test cases since the decision of the Court will be an authoritative clarification of those types of issues, which have never been identified as legal problems in practice, and therefore have never been litigated before the Constitutional Court. In the case of Sergo Mushliani, the constitutionality of the Law on Immigration, Georgian laws "On temporary entry and exit of foreigners in Georgia," "On the legal status of foreigners" and "On the consular taxes," is questioned under Articles 14 (non-discrimination), 22 (freedom of movement), and 47 (rights and freedoms of foreigners) of the Constitution of Georgia. The factual basis for the case is that Sergo Mushliani, citizen of Russia, having permanent residence in Georgia and the status of an immigrant, is an entrepreneur who frequently travels abroad. Every time he leaves and enters the borders of Georgia, he has to register entry and exit visas, irrespective of the fact that he is a permanent resident of Georgia.

## Statistical Summary

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Civil</b>	<b>Criminal</b>	<b>Adm</b>
Overall number of citizens represented in Courts and Administrative Agencies	68	16	21	24
Consultations	<b>Total</b> 1184	<b>Civil/Others</b> 696	<b>Criminal</b> 272	<b>Adm</b> 216

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Civil</b>	<b>Const</b>	<b>Criminal</b>	<b>Adm</b>
Cases Begun	18	5	1	8	4
Court Decisions	14	3	1	7	3

### Article 42 activities

During reporting period, the office received 82 applications. Among them, 52 did not comply with project priorities (3 of them were victims of crimes, 4 were considered by the Supreme Court of Georgia, 3 were considered by a regional court, 7 were sentenced to the minimum punishment, 2 already had a lawyer, 24 were cases of civil law, 2 declared themselves not guilty, 1 was a case of administration law, 2 were in preliminary investigation, 1 was not an indigent, 2 did not file appeals on time, and 5 wanted consultation only).

Among them, 12 applications were made by phone, 43 persons came into the office, and other applications were received with the help of other clients. Fourteen applications are under consideration.

The office accepted 25 applications. Among them, 9 were from the past reporting period. The office twice received application on two cases. Two applications from the last reporting period were not accepted (for one the client did not appear after the first meeting, and 1 already had a lawyer). Eight cases have been sent for cassation. Three cases are under the consideration of the High Court of Abkhazia. Thirty-three cases are in progress. The number of court decisions is 14.

### Liberty activities

During the reporting period, Liberty Institute continued to monitor human rights violations and provide consultations to citizens in Tbilisi and the regions. Around 23 serious human rights abuses have been traced. Follow-up actions have been taken on each case. In 8 cases, Liberty managed to ensure independent restitution of individuals' rights. When necessary, the victims of violations were transferred to partner organizations – GYLA and Article 42 of the Constitution – for further legal assistance. Fact finding during this reporting period showed that violations of the rights of conscripts in the Akhaltsikhe region remains problematic, where bad conditions induce mass desertion. The most unfortunate result was the killing of a soldier by a commandant. Fact finding showed that the majority of human rights violations are committed by law enforcement agencies. Typical examples are arbitrary arrests, infringement of detention terms and violations of procedural rights of individuals. During the current reporting period, the regional offices of Liberty Institute reacted to 9 arbitrary arrests (5 in Kutaisi, 3 in Akhaltsikhe and 1 in Gori). In many instances, detainees are deterred from exercising their right to meet relatives and lawyers. As a result of Liberty's fact finding activities, two cases of serious violations of the right to a fair and impartial trial were discovered.

### ***Task 3: More Open and Transparent Administrative Process***

#### *Activity Summary*

During the reporting period, IRIS prepared comparative research on presidential authority from the perspective of Constitutional and Administrative laws.

IRIS Georgia cooperated with the Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSRDG) on the implementation of the project, "Support to Anti-corruption Initiatives in the Regions of Georgia," funded by the Eurasia Foundation. IRIS Georgia delivered free training on freedom of information in six cities – Gori, Akhaltsikhe, Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Poti and Ozurgeti. The training was intended for the NGOs that implement the above-referenced project in regions with the financial support of the Eurasia

Foundation and the Open Society Georgia Foundation. Training was delivered by IRIS Georgia's Attorney Maia Kopaleishvili.

IRIS Georgia staff members conducted two training sessions during the reporting period. On March 13, IRIS conducted FOI training for staff members of the State Antimonopoly Service and on March 28, the same training was conducted for the staff of the Chamber of Control.

IRIS equipped the FOI office in the Ministry of Finances with furniture and computer equipment.

### JTC Activities

In support of the Georgia Rule of Law program and for the purpose of developing training curricula in Administrative Law, as well as actual training for 280 judges in this field, a new grant was issued to the Judicial Training Center (JTC) on January 15, 2003 (the grant was signed on January 13, 2003).

During the first month after issuing the grant, project implementation focused on preparatory activities, such as the selection of trainers, preparation of training curriculum and agenda for the seminar, the purchase of books and other logistical and administrative arrangements.

In January 2003, the JTC Board adopted a list of potential trainers for the program. Selected trainers were asked to develop training curricula for a two-day training seminar on Administrative Law. The curricula were developed successfully and within the scheduled term.

On February 8 and 9, the first seminar was conducted by Zurab Adeishvili and Natia Tskepladze and was attended by Tbilisi trial court judges, the director and staff members of JTC and an IRIS representative. The first day of the seminar was devoted to the General Administrative Code of Georgia, while the second day focused on the Code of Administrative Proceedings of Georgia. The judges were provided with books and materials on Administrative Law.

The JTC conducted 3 sessions with 20 participants in each group during the reporting period. Accordingly, 60 out of a total of 280 judges have been trained by the Center. They represent trial and appellate courts of Tbilisi, the Sukhumi Court (located in Tbilisi) and the High Court of Abkhazian Autonomous Republic (located in Tbilisi).

The attendance of seminars is high; the judges actively participate in discussions, reviewing the milestones of Administrative Law both on the legal and court practice bases. The general environment of the project is also very satisfactory. Relevant administrative agencies, such as the Council of Justice of Georgia, and also the judiciary branch, namely the Supreme Court of Georgia, which are well informed about the implementation of this project, expressed their full support and consider it to be very useful for effective continuing education of the judiciary. It is also worth mentioning that about 20% of participants expressed their willingness to the JTC director to attend the seminar again after a 2-3 month period.

### UNAG Activities

During the reporting period, UNAG extended its activities to 6 target towns in 3 regions. A total of 64 public institutions were assessed. Most of the meetings were held with the heads of institutions and officers responsible for the provision of public information (or people occupying equivalent positions) and in some cases, with the heads of the administrative departments and lawyers.

The UNAG Assessment of the existing situation of the implementation of FOI provisions in Public Institutions is very informative and useful for identifying deficiencies in the field that need further improvement (For more details, see attached assessment report, electronic deliverable #2).

UNAG organized seminars for the representatives of public institutions based on the needs in the particular region. Based on information from contact persons, the decision to organize seminars (working meetings) simultaneously with assessment visits planned in each town was made. During this quarter, 4 seminars were organized, which were attended by 38 representatives of 26 public institutions. The experience gained by UNAG through reviewing questionnaires, assessment visits and preparation of various materials, enabled them to make the seminars as practical as possible and concentrate on certain issues particularly interesting for certain public institutions, such as agencies of citizens' registration, departments of state property management, etc.

During the reporting period, 59 public institutions in 3 target regions have been sent recommendation packages, which are comprised of a letter addressed to the head of the institution, recommendations prepared individually for each institution and 2 model documents developed by UNAG – a model of the annual report of December 10<sup>th</sup> and a Job Description of the Officer Responsible for Provision of Public Information. Individual recommendations included in each package are designed to assist implementing one concrete provision of Chapter III of the Administrative Code and a popular explanation of the provision. According to the information from 10 out of 21 public institutions selected in the regions, 7 already have started implementation of these recommendations.

The preparatory work carried out in November-December showed the need for the creation of model documents, which would make the work of public institutions easier in terms of implementing certain procedures laid down in the General Administrative Code. These model documents will serve as a supplementary means for promoting implementation of the freedom of information provisions of the Code. As mentioned above, two such model documents have already been prepared: Job Description of the Officer Responsible for Provision of Public Information and Report of December 10<sup>th</sup>.

After completing the preliminary phase in 3 regions, UNAG prepared recommendations on freedom of information offices (1<sup>st</sup> stage). Recommendations were prepared on 10 public institutions in 3 regions: Shida Kartli (Gori/Skra), Kvemo Kartli (Rustavi/Gardabani) and Kakheti (Telavi/Lagodekhi). Similar recommendations for the institutions in another 4 regions will be prepared in June.

The main working group started working on a calendar in December and finished in January. At the end of February, 2000 copies of the calendar were published and distributed among approximately 1000 public institutions, international organizations, NGOs and mass media in target regions of the project, as well as in Tbilisi (400 addressees).

In March, plans were initiated to develop ideas about colored posters with an educational character. Several options are being considered, one of which envisages using the characters of Rustavi 2 project "Our Yard" to promote the principles of the Freedom of Information Chapter of the General Administrative Code.

One obstacles standing in the way of the provision of public information is the absence of set fees for paying for the copies of the requested documents and the consequent absence of relevant procedures. After getting acquainted with the existing drafts of the same law, UNAG prepared its own draft law on fees for copying public information. Prior to and after preparation of the draft, consultations were held with representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade, Ministries of Finance and Justice. UNAG prepared official letters addressed to the ministers and asked them to designate a person from each

ministry who would take part in working meetings. We have already received positive answers from the ministries.

**List of Electronic Deliverables:**

1. Agendas and List of Participants of UNAG workshops
2. UNAG assessment
3. UNAG Model Documents (Report of 10<sup>th</sup> December and the model Job Description of the Officer responsible for the release of public information)
4. JTC Curricula for the training in Administrative Law
5. JTC Agenda for the training in Administrative Law
6. JTC List of Judges trained during the reporting period

***List of Deliverables in Hard Copies***

1. Desk Calendar of 2003
2. Drafting Guide for Chamber of Control staff
3. Drafting Guide for State Antimonopoly Service staff

***Task 4: Support for Legislative Drafting***

*Activity Summary*

The following activities were implemented under this task:

During the reporting period, IRIS reviewed the draft Law on State Secrets prepared by the Ministry of State Security and the draft Law on Personal Information prepared by State Department of Informatization. IRIS/Georgia staff prepared a separate draft Law on Personal Information, which will be translated into English next quarter.

We received Herman Schwartz's comments on the restriction of MPs' immunity. Mr. Schwartz fully agreed with the views held by IRIS Georgia staff. A working meeting on this topic with Zakro Kutsnashvili, the First Deputy Chairman of the Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee was conducted at the beginning of April.

The Parliament postponed entry into force of the Law on Licensing until July 1, in order to allow the Executive Branch to submit the full package of necessary draft laws to Parliament.

IRIS Georgia's representatives took part in a conference organized by the Eurasia Foundation and Liberty Institute on the draft Law on Broadcasting.

During the reporting period, IRIS Deputy Chief of Party Nona Tsotsoria took part in several meetings organized by USAID and the Urban Institute on local government related issues.

**List of Deliverables**

Deliverables in electronic format: Herman Schwartz's memo on MPs immunity

## ***Task 5: Information and Training***

### *Activity Summary*

During reporting period, there was a joint presentation at the Constitutional Court of recent work and projects of the Constitutional Court that were carried out with the support of IRIS and ABA. IRIS published legislation on the Constitutional Court of Georgia, provided computers for the court staff, repaired and equipped the library with furniture, a photocopier and an air conditioner.

IRIS, together with ABA and GTZ, co-funded a library presentation at the Supreme Court of Georgia. Several books were donated during the presentation.

GYLA libraries, both in the central and regional offices, remained actively used by students of various law faculties, as well as practicing lawyers and scientists in the field of law. For instance, the library in Tbilisi has 352 registered readers. In the reporting period, approximately 30 readers visited the GYLA library per day, whereas 20 preferred to take books home.

In January, around 284 new books were purchased by GYLA, both for the central and regional offices (Kutaisi, Gori, Rustavi and Telavi). (The list of titles and numbers of purchased books is attached to the report as an electronic deliverable).

GYLA's librarians had working meetings with librarians of the Supreme Court and discussed the possibility of their mutual cooperation.

IRIS Georgia donated a number of human rights books in English to the libraries of various organizations: 28 to the Supreme Court, 27 to the Public Defender, 8 to GYLA and 16 to the Liberty Institute. IRIS Georgia donated up to 30 titles of English language books on human rights to the libraries of the Public Defender's Office and the Supreme Court.

IRIS published an English-Georgian law dictionary: 1000 copies in hard and soft cover will be distributed among government agencies, parliament, courts, NGOs, libraries, law schools, universities and law firms throughout Georgia.

IRIS attorney Zurab Marakvelidze participated in a conference organized by the Urban Institute on the reform of self-governance.

IRIS, in close cooperation with ABA, decided to co-fund the Constitutional Court Olympiad for students.

IRIS Attorney David Usupashvili participated in a World Bank and IMF sponsored conference organized for low-income countries of CIS7 and participated in a discussion on the challenges of building rule of law and transparent government in post-communist Georgia.

During the reporting period, IRIS designed the first copy of IRIS Georgia's monthly newsletter. The four-page newsletter will feature news and stories from IRIS Georgia and its partner organizations. A PDF version of the newsletter will be distributed via e-mail to USAID, IRIS partners and other interested organizations and individuals. The newsletter design will be finalized shortly.

On March 25-27, 2003, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), in close cooperation with IRIS Georgia, held a seminar for representatives of local governments in Bakuriani,

Georgia. This was the second event within the framework of NDI-IRIS cooperation aimed at informing members of local councils (Sakrebulo) of the legal means for ensuring transparency and public participation in the decision-making processes at local levels.

IRIS Georgia continues to update its website, including resources such as translations of legal and other relevant materials and updates on IRIS activities and other news relating to democracy and rule of law. The website is available at: <http://www.iris.ge>

### ***List of Deliverables***

Deliverables in hard copies

1. English-Georgian Law Dictionary

Deliverables in electronic format

1. List of books purchased by GYLA
2. List of books donated to GYLA
3. List of books donated to Liberty Institute